कम्प्यूटर सुविधा रहित रेलवे आरक्षण केन्द्र

2352. श्री अजीत जोगी: क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) देश में कितने आरक्षण केन्द्रों को अभी तक कम्प्यूटर की सुविधा उपलब्ध नहीं करायी गयी है; और

(ख) इन आरक्षण केन्द्रों को कब तक कम्प्यूटरीकृत कर दिये जाने की संभावना है?

रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सतपाल महाराज): (क) कंप्यूटरीकृत यात्री आरक्षण सुविधाएं अभी 1600 स्टेशनों पर मौजूद कुल आरक्षण कार्यभार के केवल लगभग 8% में मुहैया की जानी है, जिनमें अधिकतर में सीमित अथवा नाममात्र का कार्यभार है।

(ख) कंप्यूटरीकृत यात्री आरक्षण सुविधाओं की व्यवस्था करना एक सतत् प्रक्रिया है। स्टेशनों पर इन सुविधाओं की व्यवस्था मानदंडों तथा धन की उपलब्धता के अनुसार की जाती है।

Fall in Shrimp Landing at Visakhapatnam

2353. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is less shrimp landing at Visakhapatnam during this year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to improve the shrimp landings in Visakhapatnam; and

(d) the details of steps proposed to improve fishing industries in Visakhapatnam?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) to (c) The shrimp landings at Visakhapatnam have increased during 1996 as compared to the previous year as per details below:—

1995	(January to December)	1732 tonnes
1996	(January to October)	3766 tonnes

(d) Department of Agriculture and Cooperation assists the traditional fishermen to motorise their crafts with Out-Board Motors (OBMs)/In-Board Motors (TBMs) to increase the catch under a Centrally Sponsored Scheme. The Department of Ocean Development assists the fishermen by providing regular forecasts of potential fishery zones. The Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) Under the Ministry of Commerce also provides assistance to mechanised fishing vessels by way of subsidies for installation of electronic equipments, promotion of processing of low value fishes and subsidy on diesel used by fishing vessels of 20 metre over all length and larger size whose catch is exported.

Railway accidents in West Bengal

2354. PROF. (SHRIMATI) BHARATI RAY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of railway accidents that took place in West Bengal during the last five years;

(b) how many of these occurred at level crossings; and

(c) the number of manned and unmanned level crossings in West Bengal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) Statistics of train accidents and related information are maintained railway zonewise and not State-wise.

(c) The number of manned and unmanned level crossings in West Bengal is 1,073 and 1,606 respectively.

Conference of the Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions

2355. SHRI K. M. KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Conference of the Asia Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions on research priorities in the region has been organised at New Delhi in the recent past;

(b) if so, the details thereof with objectives;

(c) whether some useful suggestions were made in the Conference;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government propose to take some measures to implement these suggestions in the interest of agricultural growth of the country; and

(f) if so, the details thereof; and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An Expert Consultation on Research Priority Setting by the National Agricultural Research Systems in the Asia Pacific Region and the Fourth General Assembly of the Asia Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI) was organised during November 25-26, 1996 at IARI, New Delhi.

The Consultation was attended by Chairman, Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) and Vice-President, World Bank, Directors General of ICRISAT, CIMMYT, IRRI, ISNAR, senior representatives of FAO, IPGRI, ICARDA, IIMI, ICLARM, ILRI, IVRDC, representatives of National Agricultural Research System (NARS) of countries in the region.

APAARI is committed to promote exchange or scientific and technical know-how in agriculture, encourage establishment of appropriate cooperative research & training, assess strengthening of research organisation and management capabilities and strengthen cross linkages between National, Regional and International Research Centre.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) (i) In the conference the scope of regionalisation was emphasized.

(ii) Through the instrument of mutual collaboration, the member countries can think of lasting solutions to ensure food security, substainable national resources management, equity and social justice, diversification in agriculture and global competitiveness in tune with the changes in the agrarian structure such as the decrease in farm population, small scale fanning system, increasing population.

(iii) The World's core objectives of poverty reduction, food security and substainable natural resource management cannot be met unless rural well-being in general and a prosperous private agriculture for small and medium size holders in particular are nurtured and improved. The technology, policy and institutions have to be pro-poor, pro-women and pro-environment.

(iv) Achieving excellence in human resource base will require upgrading of the existing infrastructure at institute/ university either through countries' own efforts or through international cooperation.

(v) Greater thrust on research on pulses, conservation of bio-diversity, post-harvest technology and water management aspects.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) These suggestions will be studied carefully and appropriate action be taken thereon in the IX Plan.

Assistance for increased Foodgrains production in Gujarat

2356. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps Government have taken to provide more yield increasing inputs at subsidised prices and provide market and price support to the farmers of Gujarat so that they are encouraged to produce more foodgrains in the State;

(b) the year-wise details thereof for the last five years;

(c) whether any improvement in the production of foodgrains in the State has been noticed during the said period; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) to (d) The Government of India has undertaken a number of Centrally Sponsored Schemes to assist the States, including Gujarat, in providing subsidised inputs like Seeds, Fertilisers, Agricultural Implements to farmers. These include the Integrated Cereal Development Programme for Rice, Wheat and coarse Cereal based on Cropping System Programme, National Pulses Development Project and Oilseed Production Programme.